



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Health Reminds Livestock Producers To Protect Water Quality by Preventing Feedlot Runoff

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health reminds livestock producers that rules require they keep runoff from feeding areas out of water sources by managing manure, according to Karl Rockeman, environmental engineer with the Department of Health.

State rules require all operations to take steps to prevent runoff from impacting water quality. Runoff from feedlots can be high in nutrients and harmful bacteria that can impact the use and enjoyment of our state's surface water resources.

"It is especially important now, when water is scarce in some areas, to protect the quality of the water," Rockeman said. "Downstream neighbors, whether they are in the next section or the next state, depend on clean water."

Livestock producers can control pollution many ways, including moving feeding areas away from drainages or building runoff containment systems. Financial and technical assistance is available through state and federal programs. The Department of Health currently supports 25 statewide and local watershed projects focused on manure management. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also provides assistance.

"The cost share funds available, combined with the Livestock Waste Management System State Revolving Fund Loan Program, makes this an ideal time for producers to implement manure management systems," said Greg Sandness, Nonpoint Source Pollution Program manager with the Department of Health. "Funding may be limited in the future, so producers should act now."

For information about local manure management projects, producers should contact their soil conservation districts, NRCS office or North Dakota State University Extension agent. In areas

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with no local projects, producers may contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture or North Dakota Stockmen's Association. Producers also may call Karl Rockeman or Greg Sandness, Division of Water Quality, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5210.

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